

From Bracelets to Bake Sales to Cash Donations, the University Goes All Out for Katrina Victims

Two Displaced New Orleans Students Enrolled, Tuition-Free

At every level of the campus, from the pathways between buildings to the offices and student function rooms within, there are initiatives underway to aid the victims of Katrina.

"We're doing what we can," says Dean of Student Life Larry Siegel. "It's kind of a learn-as-you-go business—this sort of thing doesn't happen every day. But where we can find a way to get the students involved to help those folks down there, we've tried our best to make it happen."

Even before the waters had begun receding in New Orleans, there were tables set up all over campus, commandeered by students, with jugs and bottles for Red Cross donations. From two of these sources alone, says Student Affairs Coordinator Annie Ciaraldi—the table set up outside Cumnock Hall and a second location in the Dean of Students' office—more than \$1,100 was raised in the first week. At least five other locations on campus are now accepting donations, says Mead, as well as one in each of the eight residence

halls.

On a more immediate level, UMass Lowell has received at least 20 calls from students displaced by Katrina, according to Kerri Mead, interim co-director of admissions. Although, she says, "we were prepared to take in as many as needed," most eventually found placement elsewhere. The two who didn't—one student from Tulane University, another from Loyola, both in New Orleans—have been enrolled here, with their tuition waived for the fall semester. Both students, Elisa Franks, a senior math major from Massachusetts and Gina Swader from Ohio, a sophomore majoring in pre-med, will be living with family in the area.

"We expect them to be able to return to their home universities by



▲ The Dean of Student's Office set up information tables across campus to help freshmen learn the campus. The tables included a Red Cross donation jar for Katrina victims. From left, freshmen Bill Shipley of Tyngsboro, Linda Chau of Lowell and, far right, Andrew Clauson of Chelmsford, chat with Rob Sampson, a graduate student in criminal justice enlisted to help.

the start of second semester," says Mead. In case that's still not possible, she adds, there is the option for a second semester.

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UML's Famed Photographer Exhibits at DeCordova Museum

Prof. Arno Minkkinen of the Art Department has an international reputation as an innovative photographer whose self-portraits have been exhibited in prestigious galleries around the world.

Now his work is being exhibited in a prestigious gallery virtually around the corner.

The premier venue for "Saga: The Journey of Arno Rafael Minkkinen, Photographs 1970-2005" is the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park in Lincoln. The 120-print traveling exhibition that will be in the main galleries of the DeCordova from Sept. 10 through Jan. 8.

"I think this exhibit is significant," says Minkkinen, "because it is about me, rather than by me. The curators made all the choices."

As it turns out, Minkkinen is "delighted with the exhibit and the splendid way the DeCordova is handling it."

The exhibit, curated by A.D. Coleman and Todd Brandow for the Foundation for the Exhibition of Photography, is described as a mid-life retrospective, which Minkkinen finds optimistic.

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Go to Campus Web Site for All the News

Circulation of campus news moves into a new phase as we begin the new academic year. In recognition of the fact that information is increasingly being distributed electronically, the Communications Office will provide more news on the campus Web site, and less via print.

Starting this month, all campus news will be available at www.uml.edu/enews and will include not only major campus activities and accomplishments, but also all campus news, including activities of faculty, staff and students, and research notes. The page will include all press releases,

UMass Lowell in the news media, and the calendar of events.

Beginning with the first issue this fall, the print Shuttle will be reduced to four pages, with the content consisting mainly of feature articles and photos. It will be distributed, as usual, to faculty and staff, as well as to a significant off-campus distribution list. As in the past, it will be published every three weeks during the academic year.

Information for distribution via print or electronic means should be e-mailed to enews@uml.edu. For more information, contact the Communications Office at ext. 3224.

Expanded First Year Program Greet Freshmen

The freshmen who started learning in classes on Sept. 6 were also starting LEARN, the University's expanded First Year Program designed to help students make a successful transition to college.

"For most students, starting college is a huge step toward autonomy," says Dean of Students Larry Siegel. "The key to being successful in that autonomy is to develop skills of self-reliance."

Skill-building is, in part, what LEARN is designed to do. It's also about having fun.

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▲ Arno Minkkinen stands by his image, "Fosters Pond Millennium: 1.1.2000" at the entrance to the "Saga" exhibit at the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park in Lincoln.

"We Lost a Lot, But We're Alive"

—History Prof Evacuates from New Orleans, Boat Wrecked, Family Home destroyed

When the first warnings came, she says, she was on the boat with her husband, the same one they had been living on all summer while she wrote and did her research. It was 39 feet long, anchored on the shores of Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans, not far from the home where she and her brother and sisters had been raised.

They began packing and hauling their belongings to dry land, preparing to evacuate. And each time they returned to the boat from another trip, it would be riding several inches higher in the lake. "You could actually see the tide rising, with the hurricane already in the Gulf, pushing all that water in front of it. We'd seen it happen in the past, with other hurricanes, but never anything like that. It was an incredible thing to see."

They got out safely—part of an evacuation, she says, that was "very orderly and efficient, for those of us who had the means to leave." Her mother also evacuated—from the St. Bernard's Parish home all of them had been raised in—as did a brother and sister, who moved inland to wait out the storm with friends. An older neighbor-couple, she says, who had helped raise her and her siblings and were "almost like family to us," apparently elected to stay in their home and ride out the storm from there.

Today, 16 days later, her mother is homeless. "The house was just lifted off its foundations and dashed out on the street," says Caryn Cosse Bell, a UMass Lowell history professor and native of New Orleans. Her brother and sister, who have not been allowed

back into the city, are still waiting to learn if they have a home or not. As for the boat she and her husband had been living on: "We saw a photo of it. It's impaled on a piling on the shore."

No one has yet heard from the older couple who elected to stay in their home. "She was in a vegetative state," says Bell. "He was taking care of her. They may have gotten out in the end, we just don't know. But if they stayed, it's pretty certain they're dead."

But as much as she worries about them, she says, and would grieve their loss: "They at least had the opportunity to leave, and may have chosen not to. The ones I keep thinking about are all those folks who wanted to leave but couldn't, who had no way out of the city. They're the ones we're hearing about on the news, their bodies melted into their wheelchairs or dead in their homes or the street."

"All things considered, we're pretty fortunate. We lost a lot, but we're alive."



▲ Karen Bell

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Expanded First Year Program Greet Freshmen

The LEARN experience began with a Freshman Welcome Weekend, which gave freshmen early access to parking decals and the bookstore, various social gatherings and a day of activities in the city and an identity-building freshman trip to Canobie Lake Park. Other components of LEARN are First Year Resource Educators, upper-class students who will assist in planning and implementing programs throughout the year, learning environments that locate classes, computer labs and tutoring sessions in residence halls, a new UML Parent Council and the SAIL Leadership program specially adapted for freshmen.

The expanded first year program will also include a Commuter Mentor Program, a focused effort to address the needs of students not living in residence halls. Commuter students who choose to participate—140 of the 277 non-resident freshmen so far—will be assigned to one of the 48 volunteer mentors, all from various student service offices.



▲ Freshman Welcome Week activities included a Freshman Breakfast, where, from left, Karen Humphrey-Johnson, director of Orientation and Freshman Programs, and Annie Ciaraldi, director of Residence Life, served food to freshmen Jared Quill of Townsend and Ashton DePasquale of Leominster.



▲ From left, Imogene Stulken of Campus Ministries and Dean of Students Larry Siegel joined freshmen Joshua Trefly of Stow and Sarah Beals of Windham, N.H., at the Freshman Breakfast in Cumstock Hall Sept. 7.

Mentors will make sure their mentees get academic information in a timely manner, meet with students on a regular basis and serve as problem-solvers and guides to University systems.

The expanded First Year Program is co-directed by Annie Ciaraldi, director of Residence Life, and Karen Humphrey-Johnson, director of First Year Students and Orientation.

The expanded LEARN program is modeled on the program conducted in residence halls over the last few years. Statistics for Fall '03 indicate the success of the program: LEARN participants earned more credits and higher grade point averages than either non-participating residential students or commuters. Most telling are the percentages of students who returned for the spring semester: 95 percent for LEARN participants, 89 percent for non-participating residents and 75 percent for commuters.

These results mirror national statistics, which show that most student loss is during the first year.

"We want students to stick with it," says Siegel, "but even more than that, we want students to succeed."

—EJ

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Although both students arrived after the start of school, Mead says, with some classes already closed to new enrollments, "Our professors have been wonderfully accommodating, making room wherever they could." Both two students, she says, are enrolled here for credit, which will be transferred to their home universities.

Meanwhile, says Annie Ciaraldi, plans are in the works for a series of student initiatives—in addition to the cash donations already underway—to benefit hurricane victims. One program, being coordinated through

Aramark, enables students to make contributions directly from their meal cards. In another, the University has purchased 500 plastic bracelets, bold-lettered with the acronym KARE—Katrina Relief—which it will be selling around campus for \$2 apiece, with all proceeds to be applied to help victims.

Other planned fund-raisers, says Ciaraldi, include a campus walkathon, a bake sale and a student dance, all planned to take place this fall.

—GD

And the Beat Goes On...

Kerouac Conference Turns 10

The Jack Kerouac Conference on Beat Literature expands to two full days this year, the 10th anniversary of the conference at UMass Lowell. It will be held Thursday and Friday, Oct. 6-7, in O'Leary 222.

"It is the first year that we have had so many events going on," says conference director and English Prof. Hilary Holladay. "Most people should be able to carve out some time to come by." The schedule includes reflections on Kerouac and his works, scholarly comment, a video screening and readings.

Keynote speaker Sam Kashner, author of numerous books, recently was featured on a National Public Radio segment on nonfiction writing. He will speak about his memoir, *When I Was Cool: My Life at the Jack Kerouac School*, at 2 p.m. on Friday.

On Thursday at 7 p.m., two Kerouac-inspired authors will read from their work: UML's own David Daniel and Christelle Davis of University of Technology Sydney. Poet Nancy Schoenberger of the College of William and Mary also will read. For more information, visit <http://www.uml.edu/kerouac/conference/schedule.htm>.

UML and Analog Devices Hold Design Contest

Analog Devices Inc. (ADI) joined with the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the Lowell campus to hold the first annual ADI-UML Real Time Digital Signal Processing Design Contest. College student teams from across North America competed to design and produce an assisted-listening device, which they demonstrated at the event on June 25.

ADI provided each registered team with an advanced software and hardware development package, valued at more than \$10,000, to use in solving the problem. Team designs were judged on their hardware and software efficiency for speed and code density. Judges also listened for signal clarity with reduced background noise.

Participating teams came from the University of Calgary, the Florida Institute of Technology, Syracuse University and UMass Lowell. The Lowell team placed third in the all-day event involving design presentation and demonstration of the prototype.

"The contest is a wonderful opportunity for

advanced undergraduate and graduate students to apply science to a real-life problem," says Mufeed Mah'd, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering and contest chair. "Instead of the typical validation exercise, this contest problem enables students to bring mathematical equations to life. With digital signal processing, you can implement any design application in a real device."

Digital signal processors, while fairly new, are used in many applications, from audio speakers to light sensors in cameras. Thousands are present in a single cell tower, tuning antennas to each cell phone signal.



▲ The first ADI-UML Real Time Digital Signal Processing Design Contest was held on campus in June. Organizers included, from left, Engineering Dean John Ting; Paul Decker, manager of emulation software, ADI in Norwood; and Asst. Prof. Mufeed Mah'd, contest chair, Asst. Prof. Adam Elbirt and Prof. George Cheney, all of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.

Groundbreaking for Parking Garage Pushed Back to December

The 650-space parking garage on UML East, originally scheduled to break ground in July, will begin construction in early December, according to Vice Chancellor for Facilities Diana Prideaux-Brune. The \$13 million project is expected to take about a year to complete.

During construction, the University will lose the 350 spaces located in the Bourgeois Hall lot,

site of the new garage, but those spaces will be offset by new temporary parking spaces on the nearby Lawrence Mills property and Lowell National Historical Park land adjacent to Fox Hall.

Following completion of the UML East facility, construction is expected to begin immediately on a second, 900-space garage to be located on part of the Riverside Lot on UML North.

Ways and Means Chairman DeLeo Hears About Nano- and Bio-manufacturing



▲ From left, Rep. Robert A. DeLeo, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, joined Lowell Reps. Kevin Murphy and David Nangle, Chancellor William T. Hogan, and Rep. Thomas Golden, also of Lowell, recently outside the Trustees Room. The Representatives heard about the University's premier programs in nano- and biomanufacturing from the researchers leading those efforts.

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UML's Famed Photographer Exhibits at DeCordova Museum

"It's neat," he says. "It's optimistic in terms of my life span and the maturity of the work. And it assumes another 20 years or more of work. I'd be happy to be taking photographs into my 80s or 90s."

Minkkinen is also delighted with the book, *Saga*, published as a companion piece to the exhibit. The 168-page book reproduces all of the photographs in the exhibition and includes essays by Alan Lightman, A.D. Coleman and Arthur Danto, as well as technical notes and an annotated chronology prepared by the artist.

"This is a gift I've been given," he says of the book. "It is definitive. It's beautiful."

As a teacher, Minkkinen is pleased to have this exhibit close to Lowell because "students can view this exhibit of my work and they will see that these things are possible if you believe in yourself and work hard."

DeCordova promotional materials note that, "since the early 1970s, Minkkinen has been photographing his unclothed body in a wide variety of landscape and interior settings, from Finland to New England, from the American West to sites in Italy and France. These unmanipulated surreal and timeless black and white photographs are astonishing in the way Minkkinen maneuvers his body so that it echoes or seems to become part of the land formation."

Minkkinen explains that his work is about "our place in the universe and on this planet. I have tried to keep my work timeless. This exhibit is particularly interesting because you can have an image from 1977 next to one from 2004. I hope that the timelessness will

separate mine from other artists' work."

Although Minkkinen's work is widely known in Europe, this will be the first exhibit that brings his photographs to various American cities. "Saga" is expected to travel throughout Europe and the U.S. for seven or eight years.

Minkkinen regularly exhibits at the Robert Klein Gallery in Boston and the Tibor de Nagy Gallery in New York. In 2000, his work was the subject of two public television pieces focused on contemporary artists: on a segment of the Public Broadcasting System's "EGG the art show" series and on the WGBH television series "Arts Close Up." Both programs continue to air on public television stations and the WGBH piece is shown as an accompaniment to the exhibit at the DeCordova.

On Thursday, Nov. 3, Minkkinen will be the DeCordova's Paul J. Cronin Memorial Lecture Series speaker, addressing "Arno Minkkinen and the Cathedral of the Universe." DeCordova's annual Paul J. Cronin Memorial Lectures were established in 1981 to consider topics that are broadly focused upon changing attitudes towards contemporary art. They are made possible by a generous grant from the Grover Cronin Memorial Foundation.

The lecture will begin at 6 p.m. Space is limited. Reservations are required. Tickets will be held at the door. Members of the DeCordova are \$8/non-members \$10/students with a valid ID \$8. Call 781/259-3629 or e-mail membership@decordova.org to register.

—EJ



▲ Hundreds of well-wishers attended the opening reception of the Minkkinen exhibit, "Saga," at the Decordova Museum in Lincoln.

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'Any Other Form of Identification?' 'Well Yes, I Have This Magazine'

UMass Lowell Prof Clears Customs with Some Unusual Credentials

Flying out of Logan Airport that morning in July, UMass Lowell Prof. John Warner cleared security without incident. "Just the usual photo ID, and they let me pass," says Warner, who was on his way to Montreal to lead a workshop on green chemistry. "I just assumed it'd be the same on the other end."

But it wasn't the same. Coming through customs in Montreal, the woman in charge asked Warner for two forms of photo identification, or for a government-issued ID. He could meet neither requirement. "I didn't realize you needed all that to get into Canada," he says. "I didn't have my passport with me, and I keep my UMass ID in my car. So all I had was a driver's license, and she told me that wasn't enough."

There was a delay while Warner and the customs-lady cast about for options. Did he have anything else with his picture on it? she asked. Anything at all? He opened his briefcase and rifled through its contents. Among all the paperwork was a

month-old copy of the UMass Lowell Magazine. Green chemistry was the cover story; his picture was on page 12, with a caption identifying him.

He handed it to the customs-lady—who looked at it, looked again at him, then again at the picture.

"She was duly impressed," he remembers. "She started reading the story, then began asking me questions—what was green chemistry? What was my involvement with it? Which was cool with me—I never need much of an excuse to talk about it anyway."

So Warner, for the price of a five-minute airport seminar on his science, was allowed entry into Montreal—so that he could talk about it again that afternoon, for several hours more.

And the UMass Lowell Magazine, at least for that one customs-lady on that one morning in Montreal, took on the elevated status of a government document.

UML Team Checks the Health of the Ozone Layer, Wins NASA Award

High in the Earth, a NASA satellite has been mapping the concentration of molecules that affect the ozone level, which is critical to the health of Earth's atmosphere.

The NASA Earth Observing System Aura satellite carries a unique instrument, the 2.5 terahertz Laser Local Oscillator, for making specific atmospheric

measurements. It's the first such laser to be qualified for space and the first gas laser designed for a long-duration space flight.

Physics Prof. Bill Goodhue of the Photonics Center and Dr. Andrew Gatesman of the Submillimeter-Wave Technology Laboratory were part of the team that developed the laser's optics.

NASA has awarded them the Public Service Group Achievement Award, "given to a group of nongovernment employees in recognition of an outstanding accomplishment that has contributed substantially to the NASA mission."

Meanwhile, the Aura satellite is more than one year into its five-year mission. The gas laser, weighing 21 kilograms, continues to work at high efficiency, using only 120 watts of power.



▲ UML researchers Bill Goodhue, left, and Andy Gatesman received a NASA Public Service Group Achievement Award.

Freshmen Reading Nickel and Dimed in Common Text Program

The English Department has initiated a Common Text Program that will introduce the same book into every first-semester college writing class. This fall's text is Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed: On (not) Getting by in America*.

Through the experience of reading a non-fiction text that all other college writing students are reading, freshmen might begin to form the bonds that will shape their learning community across disciplines, gain a clear understanding of college-level inquiry and analysis, and forge a cultural life at the University that is based on conversations about what they are reading and learning.

"In other words, the common intellectual experience of reading and analyzing this text is intended to enhance students' academic experience and solidify their commitment to an education at UMass Lowell," explains Melissa Pennell, chair of the English Department.

The Common text Program is supported by an interdisciplinary grant from Provost John Wooding. Through the generosity of Dean Tom Taylor, every entering freshman has received a complimentary copy of Ehrenreich's book.



English faculty participated in a workshop this summer to help them incorporate the course into their classroom. The department is also sponsoring a Common Text film series that will feature a film most Thursdays at 7 p.m. in O'Leary 222. The schedule of films appears in the calendar.

As the semester progresses, there will be panel discussions, residence hall discussion groups, essay contests and more. All events will be advertised in The Connector and on posters in the English Department and residence halls.

Lowell Transit Makes a Few More Stops at UML

In an effort to reach out to students and commuters to Lowell, the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA), has unveiled a new transportation hub, with routes the Authority hopes will relieve some traffic in downtown Lowell.

The new Kennedy Bus Transfer Station is in full operation and buses will now run from the Gallagher Intermodal Transportation Center at the Gallagher Terminal (145 Thorndike St.), centralizing bus operations to a site that also hosts the MBTA's commuter rail stop and parking garage. UML students who commute to Lowell can board buses that depart from 11 berths located

along islands built on former Gallagher Terminal parking space.

The downtown "Circulator Route" includes stops at UML, the Tsongas Arena, LeLachur park and Saints Memorial Medical Center. Students can enjoy increased pickups and departures that consolidate old routes and allow for more downtown buses to serve those coming and going from campus.

For a complete schedule of the new routes, visit www.lрта.com or call 978-452-6161.



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